

23. (New) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

24. (New) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a protein with the activity of a constitutive triple response (CTR) protein comprising nucleotides A-3286 of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein A is any one of nucleotides 1440-1444.

25. (New) An isolated nucleic acid that specifically hybridizes under highly stringent conditions to the complement of nucleotides A-3286 of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein A is any one of nucleotides 1440-1444, wherein the nucleic acid encodes a protein with the activity of a constitutive triple response (CTR) protein.

26. (New) An isolated vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 21, 22, 23, 24 or 25.

27. (New) The isolated vector of claim 26 wherein said nucleic acid is operably linked to a transcription regulatory element.

28. (New) An isolated host cell comprising the isolated nucleic acid of claim 21, 22, 23, 24 or 25.

29. (New) An isolated host cell comprising the vector of claim 26.

30. (New) A transgenic cell comprising the vector of claim 26.

31. (New) A transgenic cell comprising the nucleic acid of claim 21, 22, 23, 24 or 25.

32. (New) A mature transgenic plant comprising the cell of claim 30.